

## **Prosthetics and Orthotics Training and Technologies**

**Implementing Partner:** World Health Organization (WHO)  
(Tanzanian Training Center for Orthopedic Technologists [TATCOT])

**Funding Period:** September 1998 - September 2006

**Amount:** \$1,190,848

**Purpose:** Support prosthetic and orthotic education and training for students in Africa and Asia.

### **Accomplishments**

- Established the continent's only wheelchair development and training program
- Graduated a total of eighteen students from orthopedic programs ranging from a one-year upgrade to a four-year bachelor's of science (BSc) degree in 2002 to 2004

Education is an important element to ensuring the technical sustainability of rehabilitative services for war victims and people living with disabilities. Accordingly, USAID's Leahy War Victims Fund supports several international and regional training centers for orthopedic technicians around the world. Fund-assisted centers operate in Cambodia, Central America, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Tanzania, Togo, and Vietnam.

Founded in 1981, the Tanzanian Training Center for Orthopedic Technologists (TATCOT), enrolls students from Africa and other continents. It is part of the University of Dar Es Salaam and operates under the auspices of the Directorate of Training and Manpower Development of the Tanzanian Ministry of Health. TATCOT is also affiliated with the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre, the teaching hospital for the northern zone of Tanzania, as well as with Tumani University.

TATCOT is the only African-based center that, in addition to providing a three-year Category II degree, provides a full, four-year Category I (BSc) curriculum accredited by the International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics. Graduates are employed in more than nineteen countries, many by national ministries of health.

In addition to providing scholarships to these degree programs in prosthetics and orthotics, TATCOT offers a unique training program in wheelchair technology. The program was initiated by the British organization, Motivation, which promotes a holistic approach to improving the well-being of wheelchair users around the world, and has since been fully integrated into the college.

Most of the students in the three-year course are wheelchair users themselves. They hail from numerous countries, including Ethiopia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Zambia. Scholarships are

## U.S. Agency for International Development/War Victims Fund

given to individuals who have been identified by governments and institutions that guarantee employment after graduation.

USAID's grant supporting TATCOT is implemented through the World Health Organization. Although the program's broad goal is to support prosthetics training for any qualified African applicant, priority is given to those affiliated with national programs that demonstrate strong commitment to sustainable orthopedic services. The program has become internationally renowned and draws students from other regions.